

Divisions affected: *Chipping Norton*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT – 25 MAY 2023**

### **KINGHAM: CHURCH ROAD – PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' RESTRICTIONS**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed no waiting at any time restrictions at Church Road at Kingham.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Following local concerns raised by Kingham Parish Council on obstructive and hazardous parking on Church Road adjacent to Saint Andrews Church, no waiting at any time restrictions have been proposed to cover both sides of the bend for approximately 55 metres, as shown in **Annex 1**.

#### **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals and their implementation if approved has been provided by Kingham Parish Council (check)

#### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

#### **Sustainability Implications**

5. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

#### **Formal consultation**

6. The Formal consultation was carried out between 6 April and 5 May 2023. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue

Service, Ambulance service, local bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Hanborough Parish Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, District Cllrs, and the local County Councillor representing the Hanborough & Minster Lovell division.

7. Letters were sent directly to approximately 60 premises in the immediate vicinity of the proposals.
8. 15 responses were received during the formal consultation period, comprising of: one objection, eight expressing concerns (53%), five in support (33%), and one expressing no objection.
9. The responses are shown in full at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Officer response to objections/concerns**

10. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection to the proposals.
11. Oxfordshire Unlimited, a local group representing people with mobility impairment, expressed support for the proposal.
12. A representative of St Andrews Church (which is directly adjacent to the proposal) expressed a concern about the impact of the proposal on the church activities etc. noting the number of members of the congregation who have limited capacity to walk and need to be able to park as close as possible to the church, and also for access for funerals and weddings etc. and also those bringing in musical equipment etc. into and from the church. Their response also requested should the proposal proceed consideration of a reduction in its length to reduce the impact on the church.
13. In respect of the above issues, it is confirmed that the proposed restrictions do not apply to funeral vehicles or any vehicles being used for setting down / picking up passengers or for loading and so their impact in respect of the above concerns should be very limited; blue badge holders may park on double yellow lines (providing that when doing so they are not obstructing the highway) for up to three hours. Similarly, officers will be very happy to consider – with the input from Kingham Parish Council and the church – adjustments to the scheme.
14. One objection was received from a member of the public on the grounds that proposal was unneeded and would cause difficulties for the activities of the church; responses were also received from four members of the public citing similar concerns.
15. A further seven responses were received from members of the public generally supportive of the proposal, with some though expressing a concern on the impact on the church and also the possible displacement of parking to Cozens Lane, with several of the responses citing the demand for parking by

customers of the Wild Rabbit pub accounting for much of the pressures. Concerns were also expressed that the effectiveness of the proposed measures would be very dependent on enforcement.

Bill Cotton  
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes                      Annex 1 Consultation Plan  
                                     Annex 2: Consultation responses

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May 2023



Drawing No.

 Proposed double yellow lines

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| Rev. | Date | Purpose of revision | Drawn | Checked | Approved |
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Project title

**KINGHAM**

Drawing title

**Proposed parking restrictions**

Drawing Status

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| Scale @ A3 | Drawn by<br><b>JEM</b>            | Checked by   | Approved by   |
|            | Date drawn<br><b>October 2022</b> | Date checked | Date approved |

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

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Revision

## ANNEX 2

| RESPONDENT   | COMMENTS  |
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| (1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police) | <b>No objection</b>   |
| (2) St Andrews Church, (Kingham, The Grange)           | <p><b>Concerns</b> – The present proposal is to paint double yellow lines on both sides of the road outside the church. This is currently the closest vehicular access to the church and therefore where I park when I arrive for services, often with my guitar, robes, amplification equipment, livestreaming equipment etc.. Apart from me, there are various members of the congregation who have limited capacity to walk and need to be able to park as close as possible to the church. We also have funerals in the church, for which the hearse needs to park and the team of bearers carry the coffin into church, and on happier occasions, the bridal party arrives at the lychgate and makes their way into church.</p> <p>If the double yellow lines are painted as suggested it will make it harder for us all to function. I can't see brides wanting to disembark in the nearest car park and walk along the road, where there is no footpath for part of the way.</p> <p>I understand the concern of the parish council. It does sometimes seem that there's a risk of an accident, though to my knowledge, there's not been one in the eleven years I've lived here. It seems sensible to me to stop people parking on the corner itself, and maybe even just past the lychgate. However, I ask that parking is allowed from there along the road outside the church. Indeed, some parking there (away from the corner itself) effectively slows the traffic which itself reduces the risk of an accident.</p> |
| (3) Local organisation, (Unlimited Oxfordshire)        | <b>Support</b> – The proposal for double yellow lines at and near the sharp bend in Church Street, Kingham, is very sensible, considering the restricted width and visibility. Therefore Unlimited Oxfordshire supports this proposal.  |
| (4) Local Resident, (Kingham, Church Street)           | <b>Object</b> - This part of the road is not a problem to warrant double yellow lines, it is totally not need and a total waste of money which could be spent better i.e repairing our roads, empty out drains more often to stop so much surface water when it rains.  |

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|  | <p>What will happen when it's a funeral the hearse and family cars following the hearse, a wedding the bride &amp; bridesmaids cars. The man who has a truck and trailer with digger to dig the graves, the stone masons who come and instal headstones .</p>  |
| <p>(5) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, New Road)</p>                       | <p><b>Concerns</b> - Kingham like many villages in the area suffers from irresponsible parking. As a disabled wheelchair user I frequently have to exit the path to go around these cars and it is really unsafe. The concern I have is that enforcement is a big part of the issue, there is currently a bus stop marked out and I submitted that there were 'loading only/keep clear' markings on the next corner into cozens lane, yet there appears no record in the councils details of this. Therefore the markings have never been enforced. I feel that without any enforcement, yellow lines will just be a blight on the landscape of a picturesque village. The wasted taxpayers money in other local villages installing 20 mph signs is also fruitless as people continue to drive well beyond the limit of even the previous advisement of 30! The roads are treacherous due to potholes and to spend money in any other department is wreckless!</p> <p>I would like to add that it is already illegal to park on a blind bended corner yet it is common for people to do so not just in this village but also in neighbouring villages, the answer is enforcement rather than costly 'doubling up' of rules with which to chastise people on.</p> <p>It is my feelings that even though we would benefit from people not parking there that they park on the corner of couzens lane where there were keep clear markings and in the bus stop. It won't discourage or cease the behaviour of ignorant visitors and locals on that bend.</p> |
| <p>(6) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, The Grange)</p>                     | <p><b>Concerns</b> - I am concerned that the proposal will limit access to the church, particularly for the disabled and those carrying large loads. I would prefer a shorter length of restriction on the side of the road nearest to the church.</p>   |
| <p>(7) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, St Andrew's Church, The Grange)</p> | <p><b>Concerns</b> - A couple of points to consider - parking for hearse, wedding car, disabled and elderly members of church, grave digger, gardener, vicar when dropping off equipment for church for services- AV equipment, laptop, speakers to enable livestream and running of service. I always try and park away from the bend when I need to park there when dropping off equipment but please don't make it impossible for a church to operate. At least people do slow down round that corner because they know there are obstructions in the road, I fear with double yellows people will just drive faster and increase the risk of accidents.</p> <p>Here's hoping to a solution that can improve road safety around the corner but also enable the church to operate in</p>   |

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|  | <p>this century.</p>   |
| <p>(8) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, Chipping Norton,<br/>West Street)</p> | <p><b>Concerns</b> - Something needs to be done to make that section of Church Street safer. However, parking restrictions would not solve the main issue which is the speed at which cars and cyclists approach the bend. Significant hazard lines or a priority system may be more beneficial. Also the installation of no waiting would seriously impact the church especially for funerals and weddings. There would be no place for the hearse to park and it is not realistic to expect the coffin to be carried down the road from the nearest parking area.</p>  |
| <p>(9) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, Cozens Lane)</p>                      | <p><b>Concerns</b> – I don't have a problem with double yellow lines but this will create further issues elsewhere. I live on Cozens Lane Kingham which is also a nightmare for parking, this should be a one-way system, several older residents find it impossible to walk down. Obviously having lots of visitors to the Wild Rabbit creates congestion, when my house was built I was made to have a wide splay entrance this is now wonderful for everyone to turn around on &amp; employees to park</p>  |
| <p>(10) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, Church Street)</p>                   | <p><b>Concerns</b> – Yes, the church corner needs double yellow lines urgently. But the number of parked cars in the street is already impeding traffic, and we are due new building work over the road to add to the daily holdups on what is basically a single lane road.<br/>Were it not for my drive entrance, used by all as a lay-by, things would be even worse.</p> <p>This gateway needs a white line across it if it is at all possible, to help vehicles in and out of my drive and give a passing place on the street near the shop.</p> <p>It would help congestion here if the Wild Rabbit folk would use their car park off road, of course.</p> |
| <p>(11) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, Cozens Lane)</p>                     | <p><b>Support</b> (with Concerns) – I am writing to support this initiative as proposed, but would like to add a few important additional considerations, if I may?</p> <p>The problem of parking is caused, as you probably know, by visitors to the Wild Rabbit pub on Church Street. The popularity of the pub means that the number of visitors is high and the nature of their visit is one of considerable duration. Unlike those who frequent the local village shop whose stay is but a few minutes long typically, visitors to the pub enjoying food and/or drinks stay for much longer periods — hours sometimes, in fact. And given the lack of</p>   |

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|  | <p>on-site parking at the pub, the number of cars can be significant at peak times, leading to the problems you alluded to.</p> <p>Despite the creation of 'no parking' lettering on the road which extends around the corner of Church Street into Cozens Lane where we live, this is often completely ignored and access to our road is often-times restricted. Even worse, despite Cozens Lane being a narrow road (it is hardly wide enough for two cars to pass at various pinch-points) visitors to the pub also park their cars along Cozens Lane as it often offers the nearest parking when Church Street itself is fully parked.</p> <p>I have made verbal representations to the Parish Council about this as this parking is not only obstructive, but dangerous. Simply stated, when cars are parked along Cozens Lane, the space left over is insufficient for any larger (read emergency) vehicles to pass by if required. Indeed, there are times when we have difficulty driving our cars out of our own driveway given the location of poorly parked cars.</p> <p>As such, I would ask two things: The first is that any new parking restrictions are enforced (at least for a time) as otherwise this will be of little deterrent to some. The second is to prohibit parking along Cozens Lane also as I fear that the number and frequency of cars parking in the road will only increase exponentially if your proposed plans are introduced.</p> |
| <p>(12) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, The Grange)</p>  | <p><b>Support</b> - To prevent dangerous parking near the bend. However, will there be any exceptions, eg gravediggers who need to access the churchyard with heavy equipment?</p>   |
| <p>(13) Local Resident,<br/>(Kingham, West Street)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> – Cars park by the church lichgate which is on a corner with no line of sight when approaching from either direction. There is a mirror in the hedge in the corner but it is now deep in the hedge and few people seem to be aware that it there. It needs attention to return it to its former ability to allow drivers to "see round the corner". Even then, cars parked close the corner would present a serious risk. I must confess that I have been expecting a serious accident there for many years. So far that has not happened.</p> <p>There is, however, one additional problem: it is desirable ( it could be argued "essential") for a hearse or a bridal wedding car to park briefly to allow the bearers or the bridal party to have easy access to the church. The driver afterwards should then go to park during the ceremony and return afterwards. With a wedding this is easy as the car usually goes away once the bride and entourage have gone into church.</p>   |



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|  | I think I ought to declare an interest as I have been churchwarden at Kingham Church for ten years; I have declared my intent to retire from that roll this spring. However, I still feel that I should help with this problem. Also I have regularly driven a Villager bus round that corner for many years. |
| (14) Local Resident,<br>(Kingham, West End)    | <b>Support</b> - This measure will go some way to alleviating what is currently a very dangerous situation.   |
| (15) Local Resident,<br>(Kingham, West Street) | <b>Support</b> - To make Kingham safer  |